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SOURCE an-Nahar, No 4450, 1950.REFUGEES GIVE REASONS FOR TURKMEN SSR INSURRECTION

Tehran, 11 March -- Turkmen refugees in Iran report that an insurrection is spreading in the Turkmen SSR. The principal causes of this insurrection, according to the refugees, are: (1) Soviet attempts to Russianize the republic by importing large numbers of European Russians to replace the native Moslem Turkic population, and (2) the failure of the Russians to reconstruct Ashkhabad and in its suburbs many of the buildings which were destroyed in the October 1948 earthquake.

A special board set up to supervise reconstruction of the city shortly after the earthquake encountered such severe criticism that it was compelled to abandon the project to another board. Even so, reconstruction has advanced slowly, since shipments of construction materials and cement have always arrived late. Moreover, engineers in charge of reconstruction of Ashkhabad did such a hasty job that tenants in newly constructed buildings complain that air comes through cracks in the ceiling and that the plaster around the doors and windows is continually falling.

Refugees further claim that the Russians treat the native Turkmen like slaves, and that in return the natives have resorted to measures of passive resistance such as work slowdowns. On many occasions native peasants have refused to pick the cotton in the fields.

The Communist Party of the Turkmen SSR has become unpopular and many of its members have been shirking their party responsibilities. The number of people attending political lectures has diminished.

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